

Appl. No. : 09/386,247
Filed : August 31, 1999

REMARKS

In the November 5, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Further, Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Konishi, et al. (U.S. 6,145,519) in view of Christenson, et al. (U.S. 6,274,506). In addition, Claims 16 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Christenson, et al. (U.S. 6,274,506) in view of Dautartas, et al. (U.S. 6,124,158).

Applicants have cancelled Claims 15, 16, 17 and 79. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§112 and 103(a) are, therefore, believed to be moot.

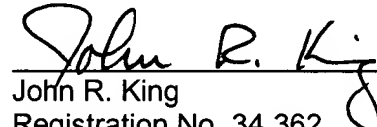
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/2/04

By:


John R. King
Registration No. 34,362
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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